

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

**1-(currently amended)** A locking device ~~(1)~~ for a screw coupling, said screw coupling comprising a first ~~(2)~~ and a second ~~(4)~~ components rotatable in relation to one another during screwing and unscrewing, the first component ~~(2)~~ comprising a first thread ~~(8)~~ and a rotating engagement formation ~~(11)~~ distant from the first thread ~~(8)~~ , the locking device ~~(1)~~ being mounted on the second component ~~(4)~~ and comprising:

- a coupling component ~~(42)~~ for coupling with the engagement formation ~~(11)~~ ,
- a stop component ~~(38)~~ connected for common rotation with a body (18) carried by the second component (4) ,
- disconnectable coupling means ~~(49, 51)~~ between the coupling component ~~(42)~~ and the stop component ~~(38)~~ ,

characterized in that the coupling means ~~(49, 51)~~ are of the type ~~with~~ comprises a ratchet allowing relative rotation in the direction of unscrewing when a torque at least indirectly applied to the first and second components with respect to one another overcomes a predetermined elastic resistance is overcome.

**2-(currently amended)** The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the coupling means ~~comprise~~ comprises

axially pointing teeth ~~(49, 51)~~ formed on the coupling component ~~(38)~~ and on the stop component ~~(42)~~ , which are urged towards one another by a spring ~~(36)~~ in the direction of teeth interpenetration.

**3-(currently amended)** The device according to claim 2, characterized in that the ~~two~~ coupling and stop components ~~(38, 42)~~ are axially movable in relation to the body ~~(18)~~ and are ~~together~~ commonly urged by the spring ~~(36)~~ towards a stop ~~(44)~~ provided in the body ~~(18)~~ for the coupling component ~~(42)~~ .

**4-(currently amended)** The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the coupling component ~~(42)~~ can be drawn back against a spring ~~(36)~~ and comprises a stop ~~(47)~~ for engagement of a shoulder ~~(48)~~ of the first component ~~(2)~~ in order to limit the axial extent by which the coupling component ~~(42)~~ is able to cover the engagement formation ~~(11)~~ .

**5-(currently amended)** The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the body ~~(18)~~ is formed as a cup enclosing the stop component ~~(38)~~ and partially the coupling component ~~(42)~~ .

**6-(currently amended)** The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the stop component ~~(38)~~ and the coupling component ~~(42)~~ are mounted around a tube ~~(32)~~ of the second component ~~(4)~~ , which is internally threaded ~~(16)~~ for screwing with the first component ~~(2)~~ .

7-(currently amended) The device according to claims 1, characterized in that the body ~~(18)~~ can be fitted onto a second engagement formation ~~(13)~~ integral with the second component ~~(4)~~ and has its own engagement formation ~~(25)~~ which can be used in place of the second engagement formation ~~(13)~~ in order to carry out the relative rotation of the ~~two~~ first and second components ~~(2, 4)~~ by means of tools.

8-(currently amended) The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the body ~~(18)~~ is secured onto the second component ~~(4)~~ by snap-fit ~~(24, 27)~~.

9-(currently amended) The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the body ~~(18)~~ is secured onto the second component ~~(4)~~ by crimping ~~(29)~~.

10-(currently amended) The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the body ~~(18)~~ is produced in one piece with the second component ~~(4)~~.

11-(currently amended) The device according to claim 1, characterized by being in that the device is adapted to be mounted as a single unit onto the second component.

12-(currently amended) The device according to claim 1, characterized by being entirely mounted on the second component ~~(4)~~.

13-(currently amended) A pipe coupling comprising a first pipe end-portion provided with an external thread and, a second pipe end-portion, a nut which is rotatably mounted on the second

pipe end-portion and can be screwed on the external thread of the first pipe end-portion ~~and rotatably mounted on another pipe end-portion, characterized in that said coupling also comprises, and~~ a locking device according to claim 1 for selectively locking against relative rotation ~~the two components constituted by the nut and the~~ first pipe end-portion provided with an the external thread.

**14-(currently amended)** The coupling according to claim 13, characterized in that the first ~~component (2)~~ and the other second pipe end-end (3) portions and the nut are standard non-modified components.

**15-(currently amended)** The device according to claim 2, characterized in that the coupling component ~~(42)~~ can be drawn back against a the spring ~~(36)~~ and comprises a stop ~~(47)~~ for engagement of a shoulder ~~(48)~~ of the first component ~~(2)~~ in order to limit the axial extent by which the coupling component ~~(42)~~ is able to cover the engagement formation ~~(11)~~.